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ACTION PRM-10

INFO LOG-00 AF-01 AID-01 AMAD-01 CA-02 OASY-00 OIGO-01
TEDE-00 ADS-00 SR-00 FMP-00 /016W
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R 171534Z FEB 95
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5293
INFO RWANDA COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BUJUMBURA 000788

E.O.12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREF, BY, RW
SUBJECT: A/S OAKLEY'S MEETING WITH UNHCR OGATA

1. CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: UNHCR SADAKO OGATA TOLD A/S OAKLEY THAT THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS IS OVER. THERE ARE OBSTACLES TO BE OVERCOME WITH THE HCR-FAZ FORCE, BUT ITS CREATION HAS ALREADY IMPROVED CAMP SECURITY. MRS. OGATA WAS ADAMANTLY AGAINST SETTING A DATE FOR CLOSING CAMPS, BUT BELIEVED THAT REPATRIATION WILL BEGIN GATHERING MOMENTUM. SHE WAS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE FOOD SITUATION IN THE CAMPS, AND ABOUT THE EFFECT THAT THE RETURN OF IDPS INSIDE RWANDA WOULD HAVE ON THE REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES FROM THE CAMPS OUTSIDE.

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END SUMMARY.

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3. MRS. OGATA WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HER SPECIAL ENVOY, CARROLL FAUBERT, AND UNHCR GOMA SUB-OFFICE HEAD JOEL BOUTROUE. WITH A/S OAKLEY WERE SPECIAL RWANDA COORDINATOR TOWNSEND FRIEDMAN, KAMPALA REFOFF JIM KELLY, AND RWANDA COORDINATION STAFF OFFICER EDWIN BROWN (NOTETAKER).

4. THE MEETING TOOK PLACE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL SUITE AT THE GOMA AIRPORT. MRS. OGATA HAD JUST ARRIVED FROM SOUTH KIVU, WHERE SHE SAID SHE HAD OBSERVED "BIG CHANGES" SINCE HER LAST VISIT IN JULY. IN HER JUDGMENT, THE CRISIS PHASE IS OVER IN THE CAMPS. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS FOCUSED ON THE CAMP SECURITY ISSUE, BUT NEEDS TO BE INFORMED ABOUT PROGRESS ON THE HUMANITARIAN FRONT, SECURITY, HOWEVER, IS ALSO BETTER IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS. THE FORMATION OF THE JOINT HCR-FAZ FORCE HAS HAD AN INTIMIDATING EFFECT IN THE CAMPS.

5. MRS. OGATA'S IMPRESSION OF THE BUKAVU CAMPS IS THAT THEY ARE "HIGHLY POLITICAL." THE REFUGEES WANT TO GO BACK, BUT DON'T FEEL SECURE. THEY SEE THEMSELVES AS VICTIMS, NOT AS PERPETRATORS, OF VIOLENCE. FAUBERT INTERJECTED THAT 10,000 EX-FAR SOLDIERS HAD RECENTLY "DISAPPEARED" FROM THE CAMPS. THE REST REMAIN IN THE GENERAL CAMP POPULATION. THERE HAVE BEEN PERSISTENT RUMORS OF MILITARY TRAINING, HE CONTINUED, INCLUDING ON IJWI
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ISLAND IN LAKE KIVU, WHERE THERE IS A CAMP HOLDING 60,000 REFUGEES. (NOTE: IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION, FAUBERT SAID THAT HCR WANTS TO CLOSE THE IJWI CAMP SOON BECAUSE IT IS TOO DIFFICULT TO SUPPLY.)

6. A/S OAKLEY INQUIRED ABOUT THE HCR-GOZ AGREEMENT FOR A CAMP SECURITY FORCE. THE HCR RESPONDED THAT THE IMMEDIATE DIFFICULTY WAS THAT LOCAL ZAIRIAN OFFICIALS DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THE

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FORCE. (NOTE: ZAIROIS DEFENSE MINISTER GRAND ADMIRAL MAVUA ARRIVED IN GOMA SHORTLY AFTER MRS. OGATA, FOR THE PURPOSE OF VISITING THE NEWLY-OPENED CAMP OF THE SECURITY FORCE.) OTHER ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED ARE THE SELECTION OF TROOPS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FORCE, ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMAND AND CONTROL, AND INTEGRATING THE SELECTED TROOPS INTO A SINGLE UNIT. FAUBERT COMMENTED THAT TENSION BETWEEN THE CAMP SECURITY FORCE AND OTHER FAZ UNITS IN THE AREA WILL BE A CONSTANT PROBLEM. IT IS NECESSARY TO CONVINCE THE GOZ TO PAY THE TROOPS WHO ARE NOT PART OF THE CAMP UNIT. BOUTROUE ADDED THAT THE CAMP FORCE WILL OUTNUMBER OTHER FAZ IN THE AREA, BUT THAT THESE OTHERS COULD STILL CAUSE PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY IN THE CITY OF GOMA.

7. A/S OAKLEY ASKED HOW UNHCR PLANNED TO ESTABLISH COMMAND AND CONTROL OVER THE CAMP FORCE, NOTING THAT THE USG HAD NOT RECEIVED A REQUEST TO PROVIDE PERSONNEL FOR THE SUPERVISORY FORCE. THE

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HCR ANSWERED THAT ONLY A GENERAL REQUEST HAD GONE OUT, WHICH THE USG MIGHT NOT YET HAVE RECEIVED. A YUGOSLAV GENERAL WOULD ARRIVE SOON TO TAKE COMMAND OF THE OPERATION, AND 13 TRAINERS WERE ON THE WAY FROM THE NETHERLANDS. A/S OAKLEY STATED THAT THE U.S. COULD NOT PROVIDE ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL FOR POLICE TRAINING, BUT SHE SAID SHE ASSUMED UNHCR WAS PERSUADING THE POSSIBILITY OF USING RETIRED U.S. MILITARY OR POLICE. THE HCR EMPHASIZED THAT THE MISSION OF THE SECURITY FORCE DID NOT INCLUDE SEPARATING THE EX-FAR FROM THE BODY OF REFUGEES

FAUBERT ADDED THAT THE FAZ TROOPS THEMSELVES HAD REQUESTED TRAINING IN HUMANITARIAN LAW.

8. MRS. OGATA INQUIRED ABOUT THE U.S. INTEREST IN THE VOLCANO ISSUE. A/S OAKLEY REPLIED THAT THE THREAT APPEARED TO BE LESS IMMEDIATE, BUT REMAINED NONETHELESS. THE USG WAS AWARE OF UNHCR'S

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CONTINGENCY PLANNING, SHE SAID, AND THOUGHT THAT

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THIS PROCESS COULD BE USED TO ENCOURAGE
REPATRIATION. BOUTROUE RESPONDED THAT HCR'S
CONTINGENCY PLANS INVOLVED WORKING WITH THE

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REFUGEES TO CONTROL PANIC, MOVING THEM TO TEMPORARY SITES AWAY FROM THE CAMPS, AND THEN MOVING THEM BACK WHEN CONDITIONS PERMITTED. UNHCR IS ALSO TALKING TO THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF TEMPORARILY MOVING THE LOCAL ZAIROIS POPULATION INTO RWANDA IF AN ERUPTION THREATENS GOMA. MRS. OGATA COMMENTED THAT JAPAN "HAD TO SUFFER AN EARTHQUAKE" TO MAKE PEOPLE APPRECIATE THE VALUE OF PLANNING, AND THAT SEVERAL PLANS ARE NEEDED FOR UNPREDICTABLE EVENTS.

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9. ASKED ABOUT THE FOOD SITUATION IN THE CAMPS, MRS. OGATA SAID THAT THE BUKAVU CAMPS ARE ALREADY AFFECTED BY SHORTAGES, AND THAT WORSE IS EXPECTED BY APRIL. THIS IS WORRISOME BECAUSE NUTRITION IS GOOD IN THE CAMPS NOW. A/S OAKLEY STATED THAT THE U.S. WOULD TAKE UP THE FOOD ISSUE AT THE BUJUMBURA CONFERENCE.

10. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SETTING A DATE CERTAIN FOR CLOSING THE CAMPS, THE HCR RESPONDED STRONGLY THAT IT WAS "A DANGEROUS KIND OF A THINKING" TO SET A DATE. THERE ARE TWO CONDITIONS WHICH MUST BE MET BEFORE CAMPS CAN CLOSE, SHE SAID. THEY ARE ADEQUATE SECURITY IN RWANDA, AND SECURITY IN THE CAMPS TO ALLOW THE REFUGEES TO DECIDE TO GO HOME WITHOUT INTIMIDATION. IF THESE TWO CONDITIONS CAN BE SATISFIED IN THE NEXT TWO OR THREE MONTHS, SHE BELIEVES, THE REPATRIATION RATE COULD INCREASE NOTICEABLY BY SUMMER (THERE IS A MOMENTUM EFFECT, SHE SAID) AND IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO CLOSE CAMPS NEAR THE FRONTIER BY THE END OF 1995. SHE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT SECURITY MUST COME FIRST.

11. A/S OAKLEY ASKED HOW MUCH REPATRIATION IS OCCURRING FROM THE BUKAVU CAMPS. LITTLE TO DATE, MRS. OGATA RESPONDED, ALTHOUGH REPATRIATION IS STARTING IN TANZANIA. ONCE THE PROCESS PICKS UP

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STEAM, IT WILL BE EASIER TO DETERMINE WHO, AND HOW
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MANY, WILL GO OR STAY.

12. THIS WAS IMPORTANT, A/S OAKLEY COMMENTED,
BECAUSE U.S. ASSISTANCE LEVELS WILL NOT INCREASE,
AND BECAUSE UNHCR CANNOT EXPECT HOST COUNTRIES TO
KEEP UP THEIR CURRENT LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR THE
REFUGEES FOR LONG. SHE STRESSED THAT THIS POINT
NEEDS TO BE MADE TO THE GOR.

13. MRS. OGATA TOOK NOTE OF THE FACT THAT ONLY
40,000 IDPS HAVE BEEN TRANSPORTED HOME FROM THEIR
CAMPS IN RWANDA, THE REST HAVING GONE TO OTHER
CAMPS OR TO BURUNDI. THE GOR OBJECTS TO
DISCUSSING THE IDP SITUATION AT THE BUJUMBURA
CONFERENCE, SHE SAID, BUT WHAT HAPPENS TO THE IDPS
IS IMPORTANT TO ENCOURAGING THE RETURN OF THE
EXTERNAL REFUGEES.

14. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

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